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Section 1. Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently amended): A device for feeding comprising a handle and a ~~spoon~~ bowl portion, wherein said bowl portion comprises a lower depressed concave section; ~~and an upper enclosing shield and having openings at the posterior and anterior ends of the bowl;~~

said bowl portion further comprising an outwardly curved upper shield section that partially encloses said bowl portion thereby creating an open cavity with an anterior and posterior opening;

wherein said anterior opening is tubular in shape and substantially smaller than said posterior opening thus enabling an infant to feed by using a sucking action similar to that used by an infant when nursing from a baby bottle; and

wherein said posterior opening is angled to allow for easier collection of food and is larger than the anterior opening of said bowl thereby enabling the user to load food in said posterior opening.
2. (Cancel): ~~The device of claim 1, wherein the spoon bowl has concave and convex surfaces that encompass the entire front of said bowl, creating a cavity wherein semi-liquid food is loaded through the posterior opening of the spoon bowl and is released through the anterior opening of said bowl during feeding.~~
3. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the enclosed chamber of the ~~spoon~~ bowl portion corresponds at its anterior to the shape of a slightly depressed nipple, being ovoid in shape.
4. (Cancel): ~~The device of claim 1, wherein the anterior opening of the spoon bowl is oval in shape and is smaller than the posterior opening of said bowl.~~
5. (Cancel): ~~The device of claim 1, wherein the posterior opening of the spoon bowl is angled to allow for easier collection of food and is larger than the anterior opening of said bowl.~~



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6. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~top portion~~ upper shield section of the enclosed ~~spoon~~ bowl portion is asymmetrical to allow for the easy collection of food into the enlarged side of the posterior opening.
7. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the underside shape of the ~~spoon~~ bowl portion corresponds to a conventional spoon shape except that the anterior of the bowl is more narrow and convex and the tip is straight edge.
8. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the handle has a downward angle to keep the ~~spoon~~ bowl portion level.
9. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the handle has indentions for gripping the device.
10. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein ~~all or part of the utensil~~ said device is substantially comprised of ~~a structure~~ of a rigid ~~or semi-rigid~~ organic composite.
11. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein ~~all or part of the~~ said device is substantially comprised of a rigid ~~or semi-rigid~~ non-organic composite.
12. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein ~~all or part of the device~~ is substantially comprised of a structure formed from stainless steel ~~or another non-toxic metallic material~~.
13. (Cancel): ~~The device of claim 1, wherein all or part of the device is made of a structure formed from wood, bone, shell, or another organic or organic by-product material.~~
14. (Cancel): ~~The device of claim 1, wherein all or part of the device is made of a structure formed from stone, glass, crystal, or another mineral or crystalline material.~~
15. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~spoon~~ bowl portion and handle are substantially coated ~~entirely or in part~~ with a heat-sensing material.



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16. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~spoon~~ bowl portion and handle are substantially coated ~~entirely or in part~~ with a heat-resistant material.
17. (Cancel): ~~The process of loading food into the device of claim 1.~~
18. (Cancel): ~~The process of feeding an individual with the device of claim 1.~~
19. (New): The device of claim 1, wherein said device is substantially comprised of a semi-rigid organic composite.
20. (New): The device of claim 1, wherein said device is substantially comprised of a semi-rigid non-organic composite.
21. (New): The device of claim 1, wherein said device is substantially comprised of a structure formed from a non toxic metallic material.



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Section 2. Reply to the Office Re §102 Rejections

Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of §102 objections raised in the Office Action, based on the following considerations. Examiner suggests that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 1-18 in the instant application are anticipated by U.S. patent 3,054,184, to applicants Wyner and Lee (this patent will be referred to as Wyner '184 throughout this section). Wyner '184 discloses a medicine spoon comprising a lower concave section and an upper enclosing shield with openings. In light of the recent amendments in section 1 of this response and other considerations, applicant requests the examiner to reconsider his position on this matter.

First, applicant describes in amended claim 1 a bowl portion comprising a lower depressed concave section. Wyler '184 teaches away from this invention since it has a bowl portion that is designed to lie flat on a table or other medium while the liquid is loaded into the spoon. The lower concave bowl portion in the instant invention is important because it depresses the tongue of the infant, thus assisting the infant in transitioning from liquid foods to solid foods. It trains the infant to use the proper way of opening his mouth and receiving the solid or semi-solid contents of the spoon. The flat design of the medicine spoon fails to properly depress the tongue and thus would not require the infant to open their mouth extremely wide.

In addition to the concave design, the invention also provides significant improvements over the enclosing shield displayed in Wyler '184. Specifically, the spoon edge of the posterior opening of the present invention is straightened to form a spatula-shape thus allowing the food to be easily collected around the edges of a container that houses the food. Furthermore, the enclosing shield is curved outwardly from the bowl portion, which increases its collecting capabilities. The posterior edge of Wyler '184 is angled inward toward the tip of the bowl portion. This makes it more difficult to collect food from the edges of containers by requiring the individual to contort the spoon in awkward positions to gather the food. The medicine spoon essentially has to lie flat against the side of a container or jar in order to retrieve those food contents. This can be extremely difficult and awkward.

Finally, the present invention is specifically designed for feeding infants semi-solid food. This is evident by the enlarged enclosing shield that is placed over the top portion of the bowl portion. This large shield allows the infant to create a vacuum around the anterior opening of the spoon and suction the



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contents out of the bowl portion. The shield encompasses roughly 1/2 of the bowl portion thus preventing the infant's mouth from exceeding the shield edge of the posterior opening. If the infant exceeds this perimeter, the suction effect is lost and the spoon fails its purpose. Therefore, the shield must be a sufficient size and shape to prevent the perimeter breach from happening. The present invention does this by having a flat edge at the posterior opening and by enclosing roughly 1/2 of the bowl portion with said shield. In contrast, the design of the enclosing shield of Wyler '184 fails to appreciate the vacuum affect created by the present invention. The shape of Wyler '184 makes it extremely difficult for an infant to suction the contents out of the bowl portion. As stated earlier, the shield of Wyler '184 is angled inward towards the anterior opening. This reduces the surface area covered by the enclosing shield and results in the infant's mouth breaching the outer perimeter thus eliminating the suction effect. This indicates that Wyler '184 was designed for liquid measurement and distribution and not semi-solid food distribution. Indeed, this very fact is specifically mentioned in the written specification of Wyler '184.